

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 13-26 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-6 and 13-26 have been rejected.

Claims 1-6, 20, and 27 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the originally-filed Application, and at least at pages 3-4, pages 6-10, and pages 13-18, and Figures 1-3 and 5-6.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1-6, 13-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as purportedly being unpatentable over Vance, U.S. Patent No. 6,442,526 (“Vance”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection. Without conceding to the validity of this rejection, Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 3, and 5 to recite limitations that are not taught or fairly suggested by the claimed reference. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the amended claims are patentably distinguishable over the cited reference.

For example, claim 1 now recites that the business related activities comprise at least a meeting, a demonstration, a presentation, and correspondence. The cited sections of Vance are silent as to activities that are not business travel because Vance’s system is only directed to business travel planning, where a user may schedule a flight, car rental, or hotel room. Since Vance’s system is only directed to business travel, Vance’s system is not cognizant of any reason to include other activities that are not business travel. Accordingly, the cited sections of Vance fail to teach the claimed business related activities that comprise activities other than business travel, such as a claimed meeting, a demonstration, a presentation, and correspondence.

Claim 1 also recites associating the activity item with a user by adding the activity item to a list of activity items of the user, in response to the receiving the selection. The activity item is identified as expensable and, in response, automatically associated with at least one expense item. When an activation signal for generating an expense report for the user is received, two or more activity items from the list of activity items are collected, associated expense items associated with the one or more activity items are collected, and the expense report is created. The expense report, which includes the associated expense items, is submitted to the user.

While Vance's system is purported to produce an expense report, even if such were an accurate characterization, such an expense report would still be generated for each trip taken by a user, and would only include expenses related to that specific trip. Vance 12:54-13:3 (Vance's system autofills the purpose of *the trip* and charge parameters for the selected *city pair*), FIG. 16B. As such, Vance's system does not provide a way to produce an expense report that contains expenses for more than one activity. By contrast, claim 1 provides for creating an expense report that includes associated expense items that are associated with two or more activity items. Accordingly, the cited sections of Vance fail to teach the amended limitations of claim 1.

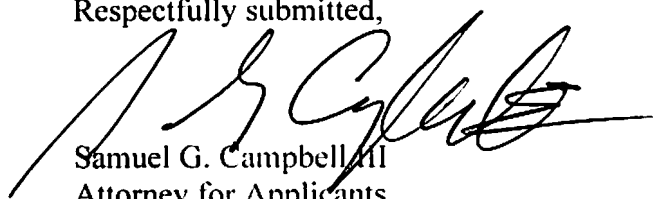
For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1, as amended, is patentably distinguishable over the cited sections of Vance. For similar reasons, independent Claims 3 and 5 are also patentably distinguishable over Vance. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that independent Claims 1, 3, and 5, and all claims depending therefrom, are in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request the Examiner's reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection to these claims and an indication of the allowability of same.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application and the claims therein are believed to be in condition for allowance without any further examination and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicants hereby petition for such extensions. Applicants also hereby authorize that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to Deposit Account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. G. Campbell III', is written over the typed name.

Samuel G. Campbell III
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 42,381
Telephone: (512) 439-5084
Facsimile: (512) 439-5099